



Embassy of the United States of America

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Press Release

Centro Boliviano Americano to celebrate Black History Month

Events to be inaugurated on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00pm

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, the Embassy of the United States and the Centro Boliviano Americano (CBA) are sponsoring a talk on the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the inauguration of the exhibit "Rosa Parks: The Woman who Changed a Nation," by First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy Kimberly DeBlauw.

These events will take place Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00pm at the CBA's Auditorium, located at Parque Zenon Iturralde, Arce Avenue.

Since 1926, Americans have acknowledged black history in the U.S., first through a "Negro History Week" and then by celebrating a "Black History Month." However, when this tradition began, black history had barely been studied and much less documented. Despite having a black population in the United States since colonial times, it was not until the 20th Century that blacks achieved a noticeable presence in history books.

This presence was achieved thanks to the dedication of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a son of black slaves, who spent his childhood working in coalmines in Kentucky. At the age of 20, Woodson was finally able to enter high school and continuing his studies until he got a Ph.D. from Harvard. He sought to fill the vacuum of black history within American history and established the Association for the Study of Negro Life & History. He also led the initiative to establish the Negro History Week in order to attract national attention to the contributions made by the black population to the history of the United States. Woodson chose the second week of February for this celebration because of the birth dates of two men that had an enormous influence on the U.S. black population: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Likewise, other key events in American Black history took place in the month of February, such as:

- On February 3, 1870, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave Afro-Americans the right to vote, was passed.
- On February 25, 1870 the first black senator, Hiram R. Revels, was sworn in to Congress.
- On February 21, 1965 activist Malcolm X, who promoted black nationalism, was assassinated by three black Muslims.